

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to :

Figure 1 of 3 has been amended to show the Clutches and Control Means.

Attachment:      Annotated sheet showing changes

**REMARKS**

The drawings have been objected to by the Examiner under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). As the Examiner will note, the clutches and control means recited in claims 7 and 8 have been shown in the drawings as requested by the Examiner. Furthermore, claim 11 has been amended so as to eliminate the need of showing a deposition means in the drawings as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that all of the objections to the drawings have been eliminated.

Claims 2-5, 7-8 and 11-12 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner specifically points out objections with respect to claims 3, 11, and 12 as noted on pages 3 and 4 of the Examiner's Office Action letter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, claims 11 and 12 have been amended in an effort to eliminate all of the rejections made by the Examiner in paragraph 3 of the Office Action letter. Accordingly, it is believed that this rejection has been eliminated.

Claims 2-5, 7, 11 and 12 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zanders, U.S. Patent 3,721,435. Claim 8 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zanders and further in view of Gray, U.S. Patent 5,046,641. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a flexible sheet deposition system for depositing sheets on a selected one of multiple supports facing a selected one of multiple sheet deposition locations. Drive means and control means are provided so that each support can be moved up and down so as to face each sheet deposition location where the distance between adjacent supports can be adjusted. Advantageously, the flexible sheet deposition system of the present invention is

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provided with a plurality of supports which are detachable with respect to the position of the support along the guide member on which it is suspended. One of the most important features of the present invention when it is considered in the light of the Zanders patent is that each support can be detached from the guide member regardless of its position on the guide member. The Examiner has taken the position that the Zanders patent discloses that each detachable support (suspension rod 14) can be detached from each folder 13 and each guide member 10 by grabbing an end of such suspension rod and pulling it out from the guide member.

First of all, the fact that the suspension rods can be pulled out is mere speculation. There is no hint or teaching in the Zanders patent of such a possibility. The suspension rods are engaged at their ends only in notches of the belt (and enclosed between the belt and the guide plate). Therefore, it is unlikely that these suspension rods can be pulled out as this would also mean that these rods could easily move laterally (out of the paper in Figure 3) in use, possibly causing disengagement of an end of the rod from the belt.

Secondly, and even more importantly, it is clear that the detachable support as presently claimed is a sheet support (for example a paper tray). The Examiner considers the suspension rod to constitute the detachable (sheet) support, which is clearly in correct. In the Zanders patent, a sheet support is the lower port of a folder 13. As referred to by the Examiner himself, these folders are made from a single band of, for example, cardboard. Thus, even if the suspension rods would be detachable, it would still be impossible to remove one single folder from the band. Thus, the Zanders patent does not disclose that the sheet supports, that is the folders, are detachable.

Because of the inherent deficiencies in the Zanders patent, the further reliance upon the Gray patent in connection with the rejection of claim 8 is untenable since claim 8 which is indirectly dependent from claim 11 is even more distinguishable from the Zanders and Gray patents for the reasons set forth hereinabove.

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To reject the claims of the present application, the Examiner must make certain conclusions with respect to the Zanders patent which are not suggested in the Zanders patent but can only be made in the light of the Applicants' disclosure. Thus, the Examiner, using hindsight, is reconstructing the teachings of the references in view of the Applicants' own disclosure.

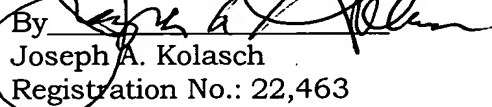
This noted, with appreciation, that the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action letter and to include all of the limitations of base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims of the present application are respectfully requested. In the event that the proposed amendment does not place the present application into condition for allowance, entry thereof is respectfully requested to place the present application into better condition for appeal.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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